

ACCESS TO KEY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Wisconsin Food Security Consortium, in preparing this annual report card, identified the following recommendations for its work in the next year:

1. Complete statewide data analysis on hunger/food insecurity and identify gaps where additional research is needed.
2. Continue to assist the food pantries in the state to improve their services and meet the standards set forth under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) by building their local capacity and infrastructure.
3. Ensure access to state and federal food assistance programs by increasing participation levels for those who are eligible.

The availability of additional community resources varies widely - from 32% of counties with hunger prevention councils to 57% with WIC Farmers' Markets.

- UW Extension identified 194 community gardens in 38 counties in 2002 with 29 of the counties' gardens serving the low-income population.
- The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program served 58,900 WIC families in 43 counties during the summer of 2002.
- The WIC Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Pilot Program distributed vouchers to 6,800 individuals in 21 counties during 2002.
- The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) made over 304,000 educational contacts in federal fiscal year 2002. In federal fiscal year 2001, WNEP made over 292,000 educational contacts. Twenty-six percent of all program participants were families with young children. Fifty-eight counties participated in WNEP.
- UW Extension identified 23 countywide hunger prevention councils in 2002. Half focused on supporting food pantries, while the other councils were involved in a broad range of hunger prevention activities.



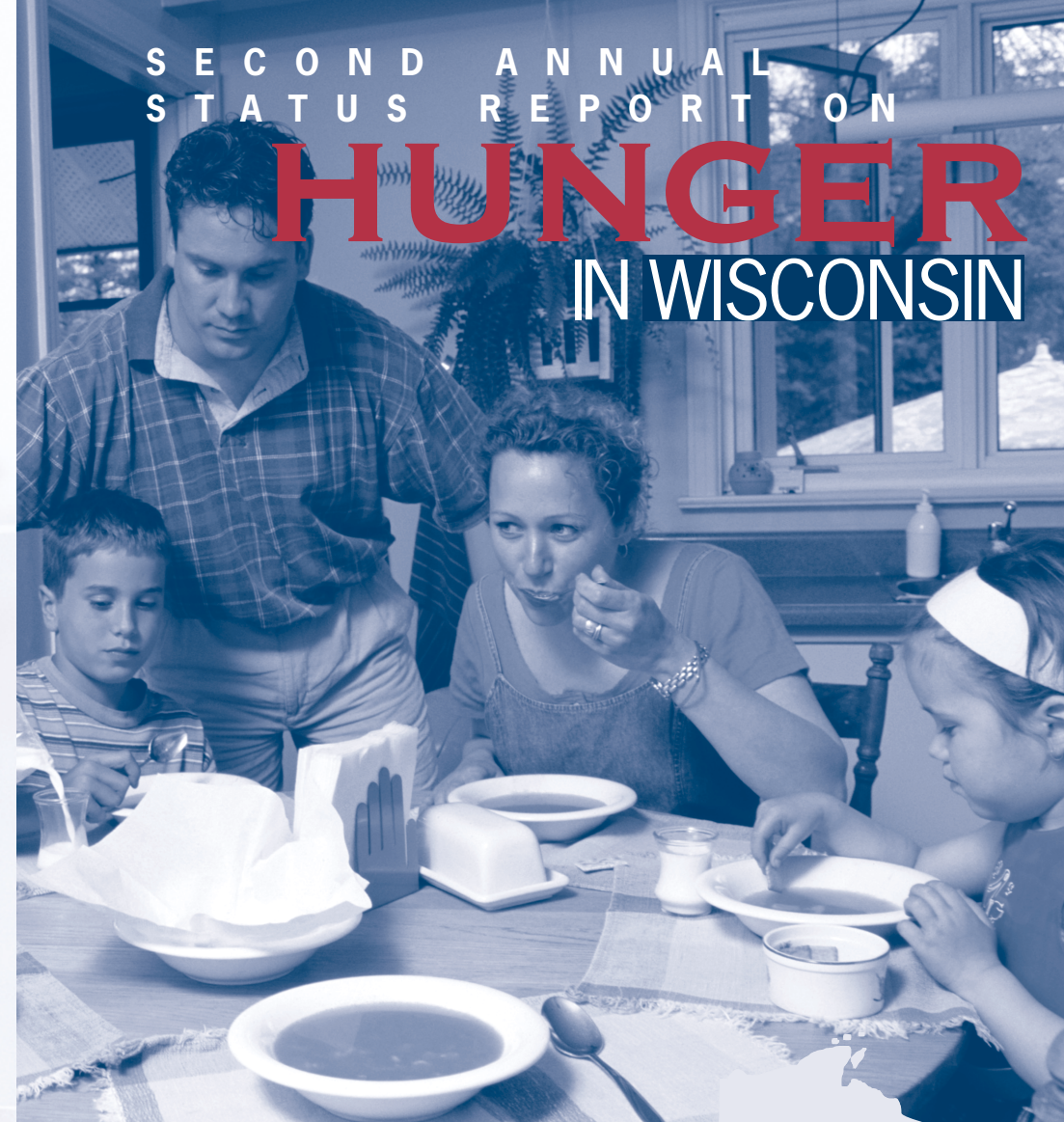
Wisconsin Act 16 authorized \$750,000 in one-time food pantry grants in 2001.

- 16 TEFAP Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) were the recipients of these grant funds.
- Over 100 pantries received equipment such as vans, computers, forklifts, cargo trucks, freezers and refrigerators to enhance their operations.
- One 2,400 square-foot warehouse was built to serve as a food distribution hub.
- In addition, the grants supported education and outreach on hunger and food security issues.

COMMUNITIES CAN INCREASE FOOD SECURITY FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES BY ENHANCING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY GARDENS, FARMERS MARKETS, FOOD BUYING COOPERATIVES, NUTRITION EDUCATION, AND BY ESTABLISHING HUNGER PREVENTION COUNCILS.



SECOND ANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON **HUNGER** IN WISCONSIN



FACES OF HUNGER

Kyle and Rachel Lawrence have three kids. Kyle had a good paying job and Rachel stayed at home to take care of the children. When Kyle lost his job he had a hard time finding a new one. Their savings ran low and they waited for their tax refund so they could purchase food. Sadly, their story is all too familiar.

Kyle and Rachel found a local hunger advocacy organization that helped them locate a food pantry and gave them the local information hotline to call for referrals to other support services in their neighborhood. The organization also helped them apply for food stamps and showed them how to sign their children up for free school meals. They also received information on how to get rent assistance.

Recently, Rachel got a job as a school bus driver.

While they aren't out of the woods yet, the Lawrence family illustrates how people who need assistance are given emergency food for their immediate needs, and are provided the tools in a dignified manner to meet their future needs. Programs like Food Stamps and School Meals help those who need it and serve as a vital stepping stone to self-sufficiency.

Note: The individuals depicted in the photo do not represent the family illustrated in the story.

THIS SECOND ANNUAL *REPORT CARD ON HUNGER IN WISCONSIN* ASSESSES THE EXTENT OF HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY IN WISCONSIN. THE "STATE PROFILE" INSERT HIGHLIGHTS STATE LEVEL INDICATORS RELATING TO HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE INSERT, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER INDICATORS ON HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY, CAN BE ACCESSED ONLINE AT WWW1.UWEX.EDU/CES/FLP/CFS AS PART OF THE WISCONSIN FOOD SECURITY PROJECT, AN INTERACTIVE, ONLINE DATA SYSTEM.

THIS REPORT CARD HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE *WISCONSIN FOOD SECURITY CONSORTIUM* - A PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES THAT SERVE IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES. IN 2002, THE FOOD SECURITY CONSORTIUM WORKED ON IMPROVING DATA RELATED TO HUNGER AND FOOD SECURITY THROUGH THE WISCONSIN FOOD SECURITY PROJECT; WORKED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION ON OUTREACH EFFORTS FOR THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM; AND DEVELOPED A WORKING GROUP TO RESEARCH THE FEASIBILITY OF A UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR STATE AND FEDERAL HUNGER RELIEF PROGRAMS.

For more information visit: www1.uwex.edu/ces/flp/cfs



There are a number of factors that must be considered when looking at the face of hunger and food insecurity today compared to one year ago. The economy is not as vibrant as we experienced in the late 1990s, and the devastating events of September 11, 2001 added an additional strain on the nation's economy.

Economic factors along with personal circumstances play a role in the cause of hunger and food insecurity. Often times, when the economy weakens, there is an increase in the number of people seeking emergency food assistance from various sources, including soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters. Even during strong economic times and low unemployment rates, many families are still at risk of not getting adequate nutritious meals.

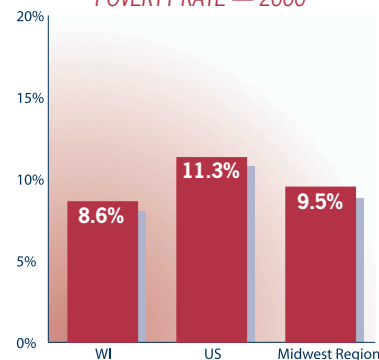


WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food security as “when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life.” Creating food secure communities for people in Wisconsin goes beyond providing access to emergency food through food pantries. It also means increasing access to food through normal channels. The USDA identifies seven broad components essential to ensuring the food security of our communities: federal food programs, supplemental food programs, food production and marketing, education and public awareness, community infrastructure, economic and job security, and research and evaluation. It is a combination of these that will provide the resources for people in our communities to be food secure.

ESTIMATES OF HUNGER AND POVERTY

POVERTY RATE — 2000

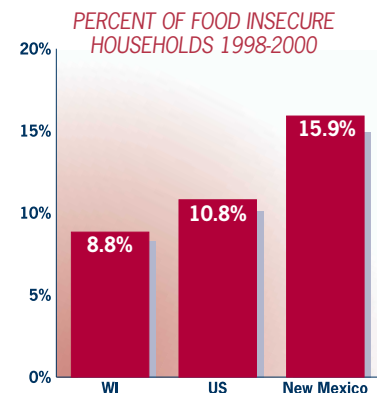


451,538 people lived below the poverty level in 2000 — 8.6% of Wisconsin's population.

Wisconsin's poverty rate has remained fairly constant over the last three years. The three-year average poverty rate (1998-2000) was 8.8% in Wisconsin, compared to 11.9% nationally. The national poverty rate in 2000 was 11.3%. The poverty rate in the Midwest was 9.5%.

8.8% of Wisconsin households were food insecure in the years 1998-2000. This is the seventeenth lowest rate in the nation.

The Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University conducted an analysis of the Food Security Supplements of the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. Food insecure households include those who are concerned about not having sufficient food, as well as households that reduced the nutritional quality or size of meals, skipped meals or experienced hunger because of insufficient income. New Hampshire reported the lowest food insecurity rate with 7.5% and New Mexico the highest with 15.9%. The national rate for the same three-year period was 10.8%.

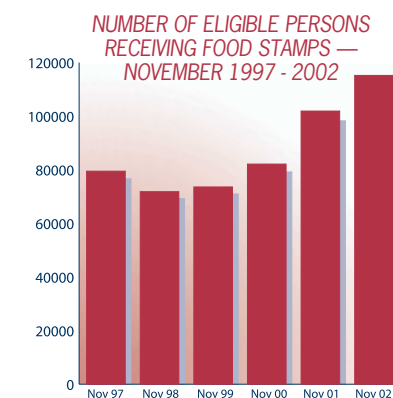


79.6% of food pantries reported increases in demand over the past year.

79.6% of the 284 food pantries responding to a recent Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee survey reported an increase in demand for food over the past year. A 1999 University of Wisconsin Extension survey of food pantry visitors in 27 counties reported that of those surveyed, 44% had at least one person working in their household. America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin reported in their 2001 Hunger in Wisconsin report that 44% of the people who seek assistance from the Second Harvest network are children under 17.

ACCESS TO KEY FEDERAL FOOD RESOURCES

As of November 2002, participation in the Food Stamp Program has grown to 115,195 households (285,328 persons). This is 5.3% of Wisconsin's population and the largest number of participants since mid-1995.



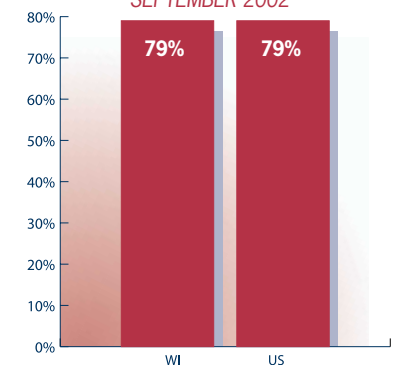
The food stamp program has been America's largest and most important anti-hunger program since it became available nationwide in 1974. It is the only federal poverty program that provides benefits regardless of age, health or family status. Participants receive monthly benefits by means of an electronic Quest Card that can be used like cash to pay for qualifying food items at grocery stores. Wisconsin's Food Stamp participation growth over the past year has been the 11th largest in the nation — an increase of 16.1% from September 2001 to September 2002. In November 2002, \$18.6 million in Food Stamp benefits were issued statewide. According to a recent USDA state by state report on participant access rates, Wisconsin was one of the most improved states.

FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAMS ARE THE LARGEST SOURCE OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND INCLUDE FOOD STAMPS; SPECIAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC); ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAMS; NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH, SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM; SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM; AND THE CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.

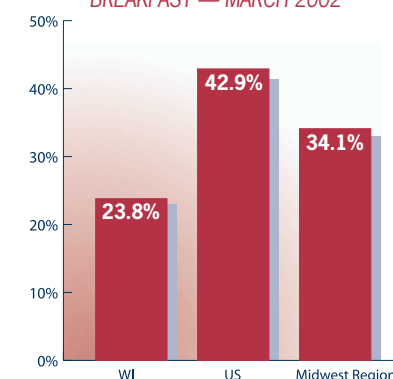
Participation in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program increased during 2002.

WIC provides supplemental nutritious foods and nutritional information to low-income pregnant women and breastfeeding women, new mothers and children under the age of 5. In 2002, WIC participation neared 105,000. At the end of 2001, participation hit 102,000. A food security survey was conducted in January 2002 with all WIC projects in the state (over 18,000 families) and found that 44% of WIC families surveyed were food insecure, and 19% of those surveyed experienced hunger. Food insecurity among low-income families with young children appears significantly higher than the general population.

PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE INFANTS & CHILDREN RECEIVING WIC — SEPTEMBER 2002



AVERAGE PERCENT OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS RECEIVING BOTH SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST — MARCH 2002



Wisconsin experienced a 6.7% increase in the number of low-income children who participated in school breakfast from 2000-01 School Year to the 2001-02 School Year and a 2% increase in the number of low-income children who participated in school lunch. Wisconsin ranked 50th in the nation for use of the School Breakfast Program.

In 2002, Wisconsin had 61,252 children participate in the School Breakfast Program compared to 57,023 children in 2001. In 2002, Wisconsin had approximately 506,979 children participate in school lunch compared to 509,680 in 2001. Twelve percent of all children who received school lunch in 2002 also received school breakfast.